

Message Text

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61

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 RSR-01 OIC-04

OMB-01 /083 W

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O 161934 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON IMMEDIATE 6839

INFO USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 275

UNCLAS PANAMA 01414

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR UNSC PN

SUBJECT: PANAMA SC MTG AMB SCALI PRESS CONF

FOLL IS TRANSCRIPT OF AN INFORMAL NEW CONF GIVEN AT

11:00 A. M. MARCH 16 BY AMB SCALI:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF HOW THIS THING IS GOING
AND WHAT IS LIKELY TO COME OUT OF IT?

A. WELL, EXCEPT FOR THE SOUR NOTE CAUSED BY THE
SPEECH OF THE FON MIN OF CUBA, THE RHETORIC FOR THE MOST
PART HAS BEEN LOW AND CONSTRUCTIVE AND I' M FAIRLY OPTIM-
ISTIC AT THE MOMENT THAT WE CAN AVOID ANY VIOLENT
CONFRONTATIONS AT DEBATES. I' VE YET TO SEE ANY
SPECIFIC RESES, BUT I' M WAITING.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE ANY RESES?

A. NO, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF INTRODUCING RESES,
PARTICULARLY ON BILATERAL MATTERS SUCH AS OUR DISCUSSIONS
WITH THE PANAMANIAN. OUR ARRANGEMENT TO REVISE AND
MODERNIZE THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY IS SOMETHING
THAT WE HAVE TO SIT DOWN MAN- TO- MAN AND DISCUSS OVER
THE TABLE, AND ANY INTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE
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AT THIS MTG CAN ONLY COMPLICATE AND PERHAPS DELAY ANYTHING.

Q. DID YOU BRING WITH YOU ANY NEW INITIATIVE FROM PRES NIXON OR ANY NEW PROPOSAL THAT YOU PLAN TO PUT FORTH AT THIS SESSION?

A. NO, WE HAVE HAD, AND CONTINUE TO HAVE, RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS MTG. THIS MTG WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS WAYS TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN PEACE AND SECURITY AND WE ARE NOT SURE THAT YOU DO IT (NEGOTIATE) WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK. WE HAVE A FIRM BELIEF THAT THE ORG OF AMERICAN STATES IS STILL A VIBRANT AND GOING INSTITUTION. AS A REGIONAL ORG, AS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED UNDER THE UN CHARTER, IT SHLD BE THE PRINCIPAL FOCAL POINT OF DISCUSSION.

Q. ARE YOU GOING TO DO ANY OTHER BILATERAL BUSINESS HERE? FOR INSTANCE, WILL YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH THE CUBAN FONMIN?

A. I PLAN NO CONTACT WHATEVER WITH THE CUBAN FONMIN, NOR DO I SEE ANY SIGN THAT ANY SUCH MTG WLD PRODUCE ANYTHING THAT WLD BENEFIT EITHER SIDE.

Q. CAN YOU CONCEIVE OF ANY SITUATION ARISING HERE AT THIS MTG AT WHICH THE US MIGHT EXERCISE ITS RIGHT OF VETO IN THE COUNCIL?

A. I LOOK FORWARD TO A CONSTRUCTIVE, POSITIVE DISCUSSION AND I HAVE NO THOUGHT THAT IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO USE A VETO. BUT, IF NECESSARY, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I AM FULLY PREPARED TO EXERCISE THE VETO WITH THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE PRES.

Q. WLD THE VETO BE A VIABLE THING TO DO IF WHAT YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH IS SIMPLY A RES WHICH CONDEMS US POLICIES?

A. I DON' T WANT TO FORECAST WHAT I WILL DO WHEN, AND UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES.
SAYRE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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